

**From:** Giles Constant  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/7/02 8:02pm  
**Subject:** A small comment about Microsoft

Dear sir/madam,

It is impossible to buy a laptop computer in the UK without giving money to Microsoft. Really - I've tried. Even if I intend to use Linux on the machine, due to the OEM licensing restrictions (which the DOJ settlement has failed to effectively address), licensees are not allowed to provide me with the hardware without Windows. The EULA has a clause which says if you do not use the software, you can take it back to the vendor for a refund, but unfortunately, this is only applicable for the price of the entire laptop.

This is (in my opinion) the most definitive example of the term "monopoly" I can possibly imagine. Although I speak from the UK, where the problem is likely to be addressed by the EU, I would hope that after the considerable expense involved in finding Microsoft guilty in this dispute, the USDOJ is capable of dishing out a \*resolution\* to the problem of Microsofts continuous attempts to gain control of every single aspect of computing from hardware to software to networking, at the expense of the people who actually work to make computers better for everyone.

If Microsoft's software were superior to (say) BeOS, which failed to survive as a consumer operating system due to the very licensing restrictions I object to, then I would be happy to use their software, but unfortunately, I only ever find myself FORCED to use it against my will, due to the viral nature of the company and its software.

Very disappointed.

Giles Constant